

An Excerpt from A Student's Year End LD Speech, June, 2006

by Mattison S.

I thought long and hard about what to say. The school, though it did help, was painful. I think the one reason that we were all here at the school was because we could not fish. I don't know how many of you have heard that old analogy: give a man a fish, you'll feed him for a day; teach a man to fish, you'll feed him for a lifetime.

We were all here because we could not survive in the world. We were given fish by all the teachers and various professionals who kept thinking that they were trying to help us, but in reality, they were denying us the ability to learn how to do it ourselves.

Then, we hit highschool where we were expected to know how to do everything. We were supposed catch our own fish and eat for ourselves - but we couldn't.

So, we ended up coming to Gap. Here at Gap, they forced us to learn; they forced us to learn about the rod, the reel and how to hook it. They forced us to learn about the various strategies to help not only ourselves, but the other students, too.

We got caught on many hooks; we lost a lot of bait, but in the end, we all learned how to cast, reel in, and have victory.

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